

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A content distribution system comprising at least one content reception apparatus receiving and reproducing distributed content and a content distribution apparatus distributing said content, wherein

said content distribution apparatus distributes only within a specified physical area a continuation signal for enabling said content to be reproduced continuously for a period of time determined in accordance with a timer which is set based on the continuation signal, and said content reception apparatus is unable to reproduce said content after expiration of the period of time if ~~while~~ said content reception apparatus is outside the specified physical area and unable to receive said continuation signal, wherein said content reception apparatus is a portable information terminal.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A content reception apparatus receiving and reproducing content, wherein

said content reception apparatus is unable to reproduce said received content while said content reception apparatus is outside a specified physical area and unable to receive a continuation signal that is distributed only within the specified physical area, the continuation signal for enabling said content to be reproduced continuously for a period of time determined in accordance with a timer which is set based on the continuation signal,

wherein said content reception apparatus is a portable information terminal.

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Claim 3 (Original): The content reception apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said received content is reproduced according to reproduction procedure information indicating a procedure for reproducing said content.

Claim 4 (Original): The content reception apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said reproduction procedure information is received together with said content.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Original): The content reception apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

said content reception apparatus comprises information presentation means for receiving and presenting content-specifying information specifying respective types of said content, and

said content which is designated based on said content-specifying information presented by said information presentation means is requested and received.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The content reception apparatus according to claim 6, wherein, when the number of said contents which can be distributed is predetermined for each of said types, said content-specifying information is updated based on a type of said content received by said content reception apparatus.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The content reception apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said content reception apparatus further comprises means for deleting said received content and for sending a signal regarding the deleting to a distributor.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The content reception apparatus according to claim 8, wherein content-specifying information is updated based on a type of said content deleted by said content reception apparatus.

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Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A content distribution apparatus comprising:
content distribution means for distributing content; and
continuation signal distribution means for distributing only within a specified physical area a continuation signal which must be received at least periodically by a receiver which receives said distributed content to enable said received content to be reproduced continuously by said receiver for a period of time determined in accordance with a timer which is set based on the continuation signal,
wherein said receiver is a portable information terminal.

Claim 11 (Original): The content distribution apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said content distribution apparatus further comprises means for managing the number of said distributed contents.

Claim 12 (Original): The content distribution apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said content distribution apparatus distributes reproduction procedure information indicating a procedure for reproducing said content.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Original): The content distribution apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said continuation signal is distributed by means of broadcasting.

Claim 15 (Original): The content distribution apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said content is distributed by means of broadcasting.

Claim 16 (Original): The content distribution apparatus according to claim 10, wherein, when said content distribution apparatus receives an acquisition request for acquiring said content as desired, said content distribution apparatus distributes said desired content to a source of said request.

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Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A content reception method comprising the steps of:

receiving content at a portable information terminal; and
reproducing said content received in said receiving step, wherein
reproduction of said received content is continuous for a period of time determined in accordance with a timer which is set based on impossible in said content reproducing step while reception of a continuation signal, which is distributed only within a specified physical area, and reproduction of said received content is impossible after expiration of the period of time if reception of the continuation signal for enabling said content to be reproduced continuously is impossible.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A content distribution method comprising the steps of:

distributing content; and
distributing only within a specified physical area a continuation signal which must be received at least periodically by a receiver which receives said distributed content to enable said received content to be reproduced continuously by said receiver for a period of time determined in accordance with a timer which is set based on the continuation signal,
wherein said receiver is a portable information terminal.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A machine-readable recording medium having a content reception program recorded thereon for a computer to execute a content reception method for receiving content, wherein

said content reception method includes the steps of
receiving said content at a portable information terminal and
reproducing said content received in said receiving step, and
reproduction of said received content is continuous for a period of time determined in accordance with a timer which is set based on impossible in said content reproducing step while reception of a continuation signal, which is distributed only

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within a specified physical area, and reproduction of said received content is impossible after expiration of the period of time if reception of the continuation signal for enabling said content to be reproduced continuously is impossible.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A machine-readable recording medium having a content distribution program recorded thereon for a computer to execute a content distribution method for distributing content, wherein
said content distribution method includes the steps of
distributing said content and
distributing only within a specified physical area a continuation signal which must be received at least periodically by a receiver of said content distributed in said distributing step to enable said content to be reproduced continuously by said receiver for a period of time determined in accordance with a timer which is set based on the continuation signal,

wherein said receiver is a portable information terminal.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A program product for a computer to execute a content reception method for receiving content, wherein
said content reception method includes the steps of
receiving said content at a portable information terminal and
reproducing said content received in said receiving step, and
reproduction of said received content is continuous for a period of time determined in accordance with a timer which is set based on impossible in said content reproducing step while reception of a continuation signal, which is distributed only within a specified physical area, and reproduction of said received content is impossible after expiration of the period of time if reception of the continuation signal for enabling said content to be reproduced continuously is impossible.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A program product for a computer to execute a content distribution method for distributing content, wherein said content distribution method includes the steps of distributing said content and distributing only within a specified physical area a continuation signal which must be received at least periodically by a receiver of said content distributed in said distributing step to enable said content to be reproduced continuously by said receiver for a period of time determined in accordance with a timer which is set based on the continuation signal, wherein said receiver is a portable information terminal.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A content distribution system comprising at least one content reception apparatus receiving and reproducing distributed content and a content distribution apparatus distributing said content, wherein said content distribution apparatus distributes only within a specified physical area a continuation signal for enabling said content to be reproduced continuously by said content reception apparatus for a period of time determined in accordance with a timer which is set based on the continuation signal, and said content reception apparatus can reproduce said content only while said content reception apparatus is in the specified physical area and can receive said continuation signal, wherein said content reception apparatus is a portable information terminal.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A content reception apparatus receiving and reproducing content, wherein said content reception apparatus can reproduce said received content only while said content reception apparatus is in a specified physical area and can receive a continuation signal, which is distributed only within the specified physical area, for enabling said content to be reproduced continuously for a period of time determined in accordance with a timer which is set based on the continuation signal, wherein said content reception apparatus is a portable information terminal.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A content distribution method comprising:
distributing content; and
distributing a refresh signal only within a specified physical area so a receiver within the specified physical area can receive the refresh signal and a receiver outside the specified physical area cannot receive the refresh signal,
wherein a receiver must at least periodically receive the refresh signal in order to reproduce the content it receives for a period of time determined in accordance with a timer which is set based on the refresh signal, and
wherein said receiver is a portable information terminal.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 25, further comprising:
distributing a content reproduction application usable by a receiver for reproducing the distributed content.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 25, wherein the refresh signal is distributed periodically.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 25, wherein the content and the refresh signal are distributed by broadcasting.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 25, wherein the content and the refresh signal are distributed wirelessly.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 25, wherein the specified physical area within which the refresh signal is distributed is an airplane.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 25, wherein the specified physical area within which the refresh signal is distributed is a room.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 25, wherein content is distributed to a particular receiver in response to a request therefrom.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 25, wherein the distributed content comprises a plurality of content types and each content type has an associated number specifying the maximum number of receivers to which that content type can be distributed at any one time.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): A storage device on which instructions executable by a processing system of a content distribution apparatus to perform the method of claim 25 are tangibly embodied.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): A content distribution apparatus for distributing content and for distributing a refresh signal according to the method of claim 25.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): A content reproduction method comprising:
receiving content at a receiving unit;
receiving at the receiving unit a refresh signal which is distributed only in a specified physical area;
setting a timer of the receiving unit based on the refresh signal; and
reproducing the received content for output to a user only during a time period specified by the timer.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 36, further comprising:
storing the received content in a storage device; and
deleting the received content from the storage device after the time period specified by the timer is over.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): A storage device on which instructions executable by a processing system of a receiver to perform the method of claim 36 are tangibly embodied.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): A receiver configured to perform the content reproduction method according to claim 36.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): A portable receiver configured to perform the content reproduction method according to claim 36.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): A content distribution method comprising: distributing content, wherein the distributed content comprises a plurality of content types and each content type has an associated number specifying the maximum number of portable information terminals ~~receivers~~ to which that content type can be distributed at any one time;

maintaining a content distribution record indicative of the number of portable information terminals ~~receivers~~ to which each type of content is distributed;

distributing a refresh signal only within a specified physical area so a portable information terminal ~~receiver~~ within the specified area can receive the refresh signal and a portable information terminal ~~receiver~~ outside the specified area cannot receive the refresh signal, wherein the refresh signal must be received at least periodically by a portable information terminal ~~receiver~~ in order for that portable information terminal ~~receiver~~ to reproduce the distributed content; and

updating the content distribution record based on data received from the portable information terminals ~~receivers~~.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): A content reception method comprising: receiving at a portable receiver content distributed by a content distribution apparatus;

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storing the received content in a storage unit of the portable receiver;
reproducing the previously stored content using a reproducing section of the receiver only if the portable receiver is within a specified physical area and receives a refresh signal distributed only within the specified physical area, the reproducing occurring for a period of time determined in accordance with a timer which is set based on the refresh signal; and

preventing the reproducing of the previously stored content by the reproducing section if the portable receiver is outside the specified physical area and cannot receive the refresh signal.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 42, wherein the reproducing of the previously stored content is prevented by deleting the previously stored content from the storage unit.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The content distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the portable information terminal comprises a display integrated therein.